

We Claim:

1. A method for web services policy management, comprising:
  - providing a set of policies in a policy dataset in a web services system, said policy dataset adapted to be accessed by applications in said web services system, said policies being associated with user-defined classes and user-defined levels;
  - updating one or more policies in said policy dataset to provide an updated policy dataset;
  - accessing said updated policy dataset by an immediately subsequent activity of said applications.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of updating is implemented through a graphical user interface.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said updating includes at least one of a change, an addition and a deletion associated with a predefined set of classes and or levels of policies.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said policy dataset is implemented in a database.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said policy dataset is accessible by an administrator with rights to perform said step of updating.
6. A method for web services policy management, comprising:
  - detecting a flag indicative of a change, addition or deletion in one or more policies in a web services system, said policies being in a database, said database being configurable to associate policies with user-defined classes and user-defined levels;
  - uploading in run-time at least said one or more policies for application to subsequent activities within said web services system;
  - wherein said change, addition or deletion may be associated with a predefined set

of classes and or levels of policies.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said change, addition or deletion is implemented through a graphical user interface.
8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said flag is indicative of a change, addition or deletion in a policy in any class at any level.
9. The method according to claim 6, wherein said flag is a one-bit element.
10. The method according to claim 6, wherein said flag is a multi-bit checksum.
11. The method according to claim 6, wherein said uploading includes uploading the entire policy database.
12. The method according to claim 6, wherein said uploading includes uploading only changed, added or deleted policy sets.
13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising a second flag associated with all policy classes at a single level.
14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising a second flag associated with a single policy class at all levels.
15. The method according to claim 12, further comprising a second flag associated with one or more policy classes at one or more single level.
16. The method according to claim 12, further comprising a second flag associated with one or

more policy classes at one or more single level.